

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A method for charging a fee for the use of network
2 resources, which can be made use of between a network resource provider system providing the
3 network resources and an information provider terminal providing the information by using said
4 network resources,

5 wherein when said network resource provider system charges one information provider
6 terminal a fee for the use of the basic network resources allotted thereto, said network resource
7 provider system ~~gives~~ sells said one information provider terminal at least one of a preferential
8 option at a premium rate and a non-preferential option at a discount rate, said preferential option
9 enabling said one information provider terminal to use a part of the basic network resources or its
10 entirety thereof allotted to ~~the other~~ another information provider terminal, ~~and/or a said~~
11 non-preferential option enabling ~~other~~ another information provider terminal to use a part of the
12 basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to said one information provider terminal,
13 ~~thereby charging said one information provider terminal the fee for the use of the basic network~~
14 ~~resources taking account of the premium rate/discount rate in correspondence with the said~~
15 ~~preferential option/non-preferential option~~ and said fee corresponding to said premium rate
16 associated with said preferential option and said discount rate associated with said
17 non-preferential option.

1 Claim 2. (*Currently Amended*) A method for charging a fee for the use of network
2 resources as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preferential ~~option/non-preferential option~~ and said
3 non-preferential option are determined on ~~the a~~ basis of a time zone ~~as well as on the~~ and an
4 amount of network resources, and said premium ~~rate/discount rate~~ and said discount rate are
5 determined based on the time zone ~~as well as on the~~ and the amount of network resources of said
6 preferential ~~option/non-preferential option~~ and said non-preferential option.

1 Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) A method for allotting ~~the~~ basic network resources
2 supplied by a network resource provider system to ~~[[an]]~~ one information provider terminal
3 using said network resources, said method comprising the steps:

4 (a) said one information provider terminal purchases ~~[[a]]~~ basic network resources from
5 said network resource provider system;

6 (b) said one information provider terminal ~~purchases~~ pays a fee for an optional condition
7 with regard to said basic network resources, said optional condition being at least one of a
8 preferential option at a premium rate and a non-preferential option at a discount rate, said
9 preferential option enabling said one information provider terminal to use a part of the basic
10 network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to another information provider terminal, said
11 non-preferential option enabling the other information provider terminal to use a part of the basic
12 network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to said one information provider terminal, and

13 said fee corresponding to said premium rate associated with said preferential option and said
14 discount rate associated with said non-preferential option; and
15 (c) said network resource provider system allots said basic network resources to ~~each~~ said
16 one information provider terminal according to said basic network resources and said optional
17 condition as well.

Claim 4 (*Canceled*)

1 Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) A method for allotting the network resources as claimed in
2 claim [[4]] 3, wherein said preferential option and said non-preferential option may be
3 determined on ~~the~~ a basis of a time zone and on ~~the~~ an amount of network resources.

1 Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) A method for allotting the network resources as claimed in
2 claim [[4]] 3, wherein said step (c) further includes the steps:

3 (c1) said network resource provider system judges ~~the~~ a state of the basic network
4 resources at said one information provider terminal ~~given when sold~~ said preferential option;

5 (c2) when ~~the~~ a status of the network resource for said one information provider terminal
6 ~~given when sold~~ the preferential option ~~exceeding~~ exceeds a predetermined ratio, said network
7 resource provider system allots a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof
8 purchased by other information provider terminals ~~given that are sold~~ the non-preferential
9 option, to said one information provider terminal; and

(c3) when the status of said one information provider terminal purchasing the preferential option no longer uses said basic network resources exceeding a predetermined ratio after having allotted the network resources in said step ~~(C2)~~ (c2), said network resource provider system releases the allotment of the basic network resources in said step (c2).

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) A system for allotting basic network resources, said system including a network resource provider system providing the basic network resources and a plurality of information provider terminals providing the information, wherein said network resource provider system ~~comprising~~ comprises:

means for ~~giving~~ selling a basic network resource to said information provider terminals and ~~giving~~ selling an optional condition for a fee to said basic network resource information provider terminals, said optional condition being at least one of a preferential option at a premium rate and a non-preferential option at a discount rate, said preferential option enabling one information provider terminal to use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to another information provider terminal, said non-preferential option enabling the other information provider terminal to use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to said one information provider terminal, and said fee corresponding to said premium rate associated with said preferential option and said discount rate associated with said non-preferential option;

memory means for storing said basic network resources allotted to each of said information provider terminals and said optional condition as well; and

17 a network resource control means for controlling the allotment of said network resources
18 to each of said information provider terminals with reference to said memory means.

Claim 8 (*Canceled*)

1 Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) A system for allotting basic network resources as claimed
2 in claim [[8]] 7, wherein said preferential option and said non-preferential option may be
3 determined on ~~the~~ a basis of a time zone and on ~~the~~ an amount of basic network resources.

1 Claim 10. (*Currently Amended*) A system for allotting basic network resources as claimed
2 in claim 7, further comprising:

3 a monitoring means for monitoring ~~the~~ a status of the basic network resources at said
4 plurality of information provider ~~terminal~~ terminals, wherein said network resource control
5 means controls ~~the~~ an allotment of said basic network resources to each of said plurality of
6 information provider terminals based on the monitoring result.

1 Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) A system for allotting basic network resources as claimed
2 in claim 10,

3 wherein when said network resource control means judges [[,]] that ~~the~~ a status of the
4 basic network resources for said one information provider terminal ~~given~~ when sold the
5 preferential option exceeds a predetermined ratio, said network resource control means allots a

6 part of [[a]] the basic network resources or its entirety thereof that are purchased by other
7 information provider terminals ~~given~~ when sold the non-preferential option, to said one
8 information provider terminal; and

9 when ~~the~~ a status of said one information provider terminal ~~given~~ when sold the
10 preferential option no longer uses said basic network resources exceeding a predetermined ratio
11 after having allotted the network resources to said information provider terminal, said network
12 control means releases the allotment of the basic network resources to said one information
13 provider terminal.